/250 cont./

683 754 Since the Meau do not believe that black magic is practiced among their tribesmen, there is no punishment for it. Outlawing is likewise unknown.

692 622 634 [689] Offenses against custom are judged by the village chief or the great chief. Crimes, which very rarely occur among the Meau, are judged by the great chief. In such cases the village elders and the village chief appear as examining magistrates.

674 114 Dhuraratsadorn (1), too, points out that homicide and

1. Page 171.

crimes of violence are for the most part unknown within the family community, which he designates erroneously as "clan." He assumes that robbery might occur if it becomes known that a member of the community has received a large sum of money through the sale of opium or the like. The author then continues by saying that this offense had never occurred in the district of San Mahapon with which he is familiar, but characteristically he explains this not on the basis of the morality of the [454] Meau, but by their custom of not carrying any money with them, much less keeping it in their houses, but of carefully hiding it somewhere. I was unable to confirm the custom of "money-hiding" among the Meau, but I did find it among the Lahu; hence I assume that there is some confusion on the part of the author.

682 The punishment for murder in connection with robbery or homicide is execution. It is reported of some Meau tribes in China (2) that buffalo were paid as a fine for homicide. Only [634]

2. Eberhard, II, p. 252.

685 439 the great chief, however, can give the sentence. The same punishment befalls anyone who commits simple robbery or theft from traveling merchants. The harsh appraisal of this offense goes back to the fact that the traveling merchants, all of them Chinese, bring wares that are important to the Meau, but those areas in which there is danger of robbery and theft would be avoided.

AKha A04
Miao AE5

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M 693 634 Besides the direct costs of the lawsuit, which at the least consist of the costs for food for all the persons involved in the case, there are for minor cases, two chickens and plenty of alcohol, and for major cases one or more pigs, which must be added for the great chief and the elders. Moreover, as soon as M 681 [634] the person is convicted or proved guilty, he has to pay the established fine, which is apportioned in accordance with a definite code, as soon as the decision is given by the great chief. Two-twelfths go to the arms-bearing men of the territory under the M [622] great chief; four-twelfths are distributed among the village chiefs of this territory, who use it chiefly to cover the expenses connected with their activities. They also use for this the smaller amounts which they impose independently in petty cases. M [634] The remaining six-twelfths, that is, half of the entire sum which the culprit has to pay, goes to the great chief alone and represents an important part of his income (see also the chapter, "Political Organization," the section, "Kingship and Chieftainship").

M 695 The verdict is given in accordance with definite judicial principles with which all the older men among the Meau are familiar, since this is a matter of customary law handed down for centuries.

M 673 When the verdict is given, a fundamental distinction is made between premeditation and negligence. Hence a deed is punished only if it was intentionally committed. Even for M [682] the negligent killing of a person, among the Meau the culprit is merely required to sacrifice a head of cattle for the soul of the dead.

A 692 622 693 /257/ As in almost all matters, the judicial procedure of the Akha also is considerably simpler and more primitive than that of the Meau. As has already been pointed out, the power of the village chief among the Akha is slight and cannot by any means be compared to that among the Meau. This is also apparent in the judicial procedure. Despite the fact that the Akha have no higher court, say, one comparable A [623] to the great chief of the Meau, beyond the office of the village chief, the village chief is not the supreme and therefore